

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 7, lines 1-8 with the following paragraph:

The shear 56 is connected to the means 40 for actuating. The function of actuating is accomplished by gears, cams, pistons, pulleys, levers, or other similar devices that translate motion from a power source. In one preferred embodiment, means 40 for actuating comprises a hydraulic cylinder 64. The hydraulic cylinder 64 is a dual acting hydraulic cylinder with a rod end clevis 66a and a barrel end clevis 66b (not shown). Suitable hydraulic cylinders are known within the art. The rod end clevis 66a of the hydraulic cylinder 64 attaches to shear 56 and to a []guide 68 that is slidably mounted to the second frame member 44.

Please replace the paragraph at page 7, lines 9-17 with the following paragraph:

The guide 68 includes a pair of matched guide plates 70 and 72 positioned on opposite top and bottom sides of second frame member 44. The guide plates 70 and 72 are made of metal or a similar rigid and durable material. Guide plates 70 and 72 are slidably connected to second frame member 44 by ~~bolts~~ fasteners 74, with spacers 76 positioned between plates 70 and 72. Spacers ~~74~~ 76 have a length sufficient to permit guide 68 to slide along second frame member 44 when the rod of hydraulic cylinder 64 is extended. In an alternate embodiment, the guide 68 is constructed of a rectangular tube that has an inner dimension allowing for a clearance fit over second frame member 44.

Please replace the paragraph at page 7, lines 18-22 with the following paragraph:

As illustrated in Fig. 2, the holes in guide plates 70 and 72 are spaced to allow a clearance fit between spacers ~~74~~ 76 about each side of second frame member 44 when fasteners ~~76~~ 74 are inserted through guide plates 70 and 72 and spacers ~~74~~ 76. Guide 68 assures that hydraulic cylinder 64 moves in a linear path parallel to second frame member 44 to prevent the shear 56 from binding or angling during the cutting process.

Please replace the paragraph at page 9, line 21-page 10, line 9 with the following paragraph:

As further shown in Fig. 4, second frame member 44 is secured to first frame member 42 by a pivotal connection 114. Fig. 5 illustrates an exploded view of the pivotal connection 114 between the first frame member 42 and second frame member 44. In one embodiment, a first frame pivot tube 116 is secured to end 50 of the first frame member 42 by welding. The first frame pivot tube 116 is a hollow metal cylinder such as a section of pipe. ~~Proximate~~ Proximal end 118 of second frame member 44 is configured with a pair of second frame pivot tubes 120, which are spaced to receive first frame pivot tube 116 therebetween. The second frame pivot tubes 120 are hollow metal cylinders, preferably of the same nominal diameter as the first frame pivot tube 116. First frame member 42 and second frame member 44 are connected by positioning first frame pivot tube 116 between the second frame pivot tubes 120 and inserting a fastener 122 through the coaxially aligned lumens of the respective cylinders of second frame pivot tubes 120. In a preferred embodiment, fastener 122 is a clevis pin, which is inserted through the first frame pivot tube 116 and second frame pivot tubes 120 and secured on the opposite end of the head of the clevis pin with a hitch pin 124. The pivotal connection 114 enables a quick disconnect of second frame member 44 from the first frame member 42.

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, lines 14-20 with the following paragraph:

First linking brace 46 and second linking brace 48 secure first frame member 42 with respect to grill 32. Braces 46 and 48 are preferably fabricated from 1/8" x 1 1/2" metal bar stock. Alternatively, braces 46 and 48 can be fabricated from a sheet of metal or other similarly rigid material. Braces 46 and 48 are each provided with a hole at one end 96 for alignment with and connection to one slot 90 of first frame member 42 by bolt 98. Braces 46 and 48 also include a plurality of spaced holes at the opposite ends 100, which straddle a tube portion of front grill 32. Each end 100 of braces 46 and 48 is secured to front grill 32 by a U-bolt 102 or similar fastener.

Please replace the paragraph at page 11, line 23-page 12, line 7 with the following paragraph:

Figs. 7 and 8 show a top view and a perspective view, respectively, of one embodiment of shear 56. The shear 56 is comprised of linking members 62a and 62b, a first blade arm 58, and a second blade arm 60, which together create a scissors-like cutting device. The first blade arm 58 is pivotally connected to second blade arm 60 by fastener 148, which is attached to the second frame member 44. Fastener 148 may be a bolt or circular pin. The first blade arm 58 contains a blade 150a at the distal end 152a. The second blade arm 60 contains a blade 150b at the distal end 152b. The ~~proximate~~ proximal end 154a of the first blade arm 58 contains a hole for reception of a fastener 156a to join the first blade arm 58 to linking member 62a. Similarly, the ~~proximate~~ proximal end 154b of the second blade arm 60 contains a hole for reception of a fastener 156b to attach to linking member 62b. Fasteners 156a and 156b are standard bolts or similar structures.

Please replace the paragraph at page 12, line 26-page 13, line 8 with the following paragraph:

Referring to Fig. 7, the first and second blade arms 58 and 60 connect to the hydraulic cylinder 64 by linking members 62a and 62b. The linking members 62a and 62b are flat metal bars fabricated from bar stock or a larger sheet of metal. The linking members 62a and 62b are oval or rectangular in shape, and contain holes on each opposing end of the length. The ~~proximate~~ proximal ends 158a and 158b of each respective linking member 62a and 62b are pivotally connected to the hydraulic cylinder 64 as previously described. The distal ends 160a and 160b of linking members 62a and 62b connect to the ~~proximate~~ proximal ends 154a and 154b of the first and second blade arms 58 and 60. The linking members 62a and 62b and the first and second blade arms 58 and 60 are pivotally attached by use of fasteners 156a and 156b.

Please replace the paragraph at page 13, line 9-page 13, line 19 with the following paragraph:

Referring to Fig. 7, when the rod of hydraulic cylinder 64 is extended in the direction of arrow 162, force is exerted on linking members 62a and 62b causing each respective linking member 62a and 62b to pivot outward from the second frame member 44 about an axis centered on the fastener 130. As a result of this movement, the distal ends 160a and 160b apply a force to ~~proximate~~ proximal ends 154a and 154b causing movement outward from the second frame member 44 in the directions of arrows 164 and 166, respectively. The blades 150a and 150b pivot toward one another about the pivotal connection of fastener 148 in the directions of arrows 168 and 170, respectively. When the hydraulic cylinder 64 is extended far enough, the blades 150a and 150b will first meet, and then bypass each other, thus causing a shearing of vegetation located between the blades 150a and 150b.